

# The Green Oasis

*The Official Newsletter of  
Liberty State Park*

SPRING 2015

*The Green Oasis is published  
by Liberty State Park.*

*We encourage and welcome  
your comments and sugges-  
tions. If you have any ideas for  
articles for upcoming issues,  
please contact us at  
[lspic@verizon.net](mailto:lspic@verizon.net).*

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State Park Service  
Chris Christie, Governor  
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor  
Bob Martin, Commissioner

## Message from the Superintendent



Phase 2 of the Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal Building

The long winter has finally come to an end and the staff at Liberty State Park is excited to see the snow melt away. It's interesting how Mother Nature has a way of reminding us she's always there, from record snowfall of two winters ago to the record low temperatures of this past winter.

Of course, we'll never forget the effects of Superstorm Sandy as the park continues to make progress with recovering from the wrath of the storm. Phase 2 of the restoration at the historic Terminal building is now underway, with demolition of the annex that housed the boilers and power plant for the building. This phase will involve the reconstruction of the "chiller room" and replacement of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing components that were damaged from the storm. The interior finishes of the Terminal are also slated for repairs, as we look forward to full restoration and opening of the building later this year.

The park as has also made strides toward restoring the Nature Interpretive Center, which was flooded with over a foot of water from the Sandy storm surge. In January of this year, NJ DEP contracted with Rodier Ebersberger Architects and Van Sickle and Roller exhibit designers, both of New Jersey, to design the improvements that will be made to the building.



*(continued from Page 1)*

In other news, Liberty State Park will be accommodating a much needed improvement project for the National Park Service this year. Few people realize that the water and sewer lines that service Liberty Island run through Liberty State Park. Replacement of the lines will be through a combination of horizontal directional drilling, pipe bursting, and open cut construction. We are coordinating with the National Park Service and their contractors to minimize any impacts or disturbances to our park patrons during this time.

Lastly, new in this issue of The Green Oasis is our listing of special events scheduled in the park for this year. As many of you know, Liberty State Park is home to one of the most beautiful views in the world with the Manhattan skyline, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island as a spectacular backdrop. The expansive green lawns and waterfront esplanade have made the park one of the most desirable locations for special events that bring people together for a most memorable day. We hope you'll be able to find some time and enjoy one of the many events here in the park.

## From The Liberty State Park Gardener



Spring is a wonderful time of the year at Liberty State Park. It's a time when we're rewarded from all the hard work of our staff and volunteer gardeners that worked throughout the fall and cold winter months, spreading mulch and planting bulbs.

Soon, park visitors will be treated to the spring flowers in our formal garden beds. You'll also be treated soon to the pops of color from the red maples and cherry blossom trees that were planted by Lisa Simms and the NJ Tree Foundation supported by the Friends of Liberty State Park. We encourage all our park visitors to stop and take in all the spring sights, smells, and sounds.

As always, the Liberty State Park volunteer gardening crew will meet each and every Saturday from 9 am to 12 noon to tend to the gardens and trees throughout the park. We hope you can come and join us. For more information, please contact Rosemarie at [lspgardening@verizon.net](mailto:lspgardening@verizon.net).





## Timberdoodles Do Dance!

You wouldn't really expect to see such a strange little bird in Hudson County. It was round with splotchy black and brown feathers. It waddled along stopping from time to time to poke its long dark bill into the mud. But there it was - a woodcock- enjoying a sunny wet spring morning at Liberty State Park.



Photo: Rodney Campbell

What a strange looking bird and what a funny name it has. The Anglo-Saxon name was Wudu-Cocc indicating that it was a chicken of the woods. Some funnier nick-names of this bird include timberdoodle, mudsnipe or bogsucker. The names come from the bird's preference for marshy forests and open wet fields where it pushes its bill into the mud in search of earthworms and grubs. The bird is found in Europe and North America. Woodcocks could easily be confused with snipes, but snipes are thinner and move much faster. In ages past, special dogs were bred to hunt woodcock. They were called cocker spaniels. The highly skilled hunters who used to shoot woodcocks and snipes for food were referred to as snipers.

Woodcocks spend the winter as far south as Louisiana and Florida. They fly north in spring into New Jersey and all the way up to the southern Canadian provinces. The female lays from one to five eggs in a small depression in the leaf litter of the forest. When the chicks hatch, they can begin finding their own food within five days. New Jersey Fish and Wildlife indicates that the bird does nest in New Jersey and that the populations are stable. These birds are listed as a migratory bird, but some have been seen in the state in winter.

March is the best month to look for woodcocks. A good location in Liberty State Park is near the Grove of Remembrance along Audrey Zapp Drive. Go to the stone monument with the names carved on it and look beyond the fence to the mixed woods and fields. During the day, these birds are not very active and will find a secret place to hide and sleep. Woodcocks are most active at dawn and dusk. A useful tool to have is a night perception binocular. With these, you can see the birds bouncing up and down like basket balls. This is their mating dance. You will also hear the flutter and thump of wings and feet as they dance. They make a "buzzy preent" call that you can hear in the dark even if you can't see them moving about.

Woodcocks are one of the secret birds of Liberty State Park. If you appreciate the miracle of spring and go to hear the sound of their thumping feet and their buzzy calls, it's an indicator that you are on your way to becoming a dedicated bird watcher. It's so great to know that they come to dance at Liberty State Park!

Sources:

Ruffed Grouse Society: [http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org/Woodcock-Facts#.VLQ6kCvF8\\_g](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org/Woodcock-Facts#.VLQ6kCvF8_g)

All About Birds: [http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American\\_Woodcock/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Woodcock/id)

NJ Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/chkbirds.htm>

*100 Birds and How They Got Their Names*, by Diana Wells, 2002, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill

## Volunteer Acknowledgement from the Friends of Liberty State Park

When I sat down to write about the special volunteers of the Friend's sponsored Beautification Program here in Liberty State Park, I realized that there wasn't enough space to express our appreciation for all their hard work.

"Never doubt that a group of committed people can change the environment..." Volunteers are seldom paid, not because they're worthless, but because they are priceless! When you volunteer it means you give of yourself without any anticipated compensation, without conditions. Success in life is perhaps best measured by what you give of yourself.

*"Let's be grateful to those volunteers who have made us happy to be in the park and have made our souls blossom."*



Volunteers working in one of LSP's many gardens

We've had such a good year again, under the leadership of the park's gardener, Rosemarie de Wakefield, whose personal dedication and vision is reflected every year when the gardens come to life. This all would not be so if it weren't for the countless volunteers we get to till the soil, spread the mulch, and plant new bulbs every fall. And don't forget the hard efforts they have when it comes to tackling the vast amount of weeds.

Where do all these volunteers come from? They are a diverse group- from churches, schools, colleges, small companies, large corporations and from the Jersey Cares organization. Companies like Pershing, NY Melon Bank, Goldman Sachs, The Girl Scouts of America, Phi Theta Kappa from the Hudson County Community College here in Jersey City to name a few.

*"Gardening, how romantic a past-time could be: I'm hoping we can divide some hostas this weekend..."*

As the Vice-President of the Friends of LSP, I would like to acknowledge you all for your time and efforts on behalf of LSP and thank you, thank you, thank you!

Anyone who has participated in this wonderful beautification program can enjoy the fruits of their labor when they return to jog, bike, walk or have a picnic in Liberty State Park

Please check our website: [www.FOLSP.org](http://www.FOLSP.org) and if you want to join us you can e-mail Rosemarie at [lspgardening@verizon.net](mailto:lspgardening@verizon.net).

Sincerely, Michel Cuillerier, Vice President  
Friends of Liberty State Park

*"Like, I just got my nails done but I can't think of anything more fun than getting my hands dirty in the garden..."*



## Boy Scouts Pitching In and Cleaning Up

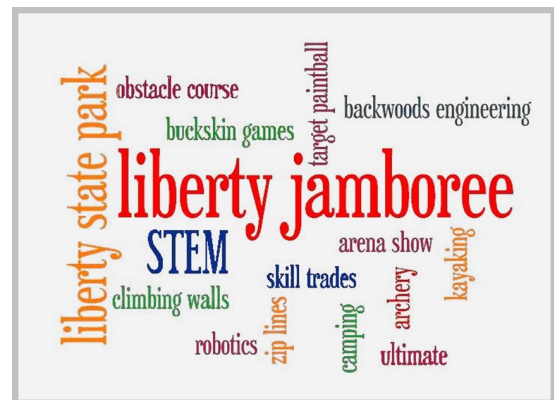
The Boy Scouts of America, Patriots Path Council has been pitching in to spruce up Liberty State Park. Since last fall, the scouts and their families have been performing volunteer service days to clean up our shore lines and ready our many flower and wildlife gardens for spring. Many thanks to all the troops, crews and their families who have participated so far! We will see you all at the Liberty State Park Boy Scout Jamboree 2015 in October! For more information, please visit [libertyjamboree.ppbsa.org/](http://libertyjamboree.ppbsa.org/).



Troop 17- Metuchen/Edison



Troop 121 Chatham



## Help Support Liberty State Park with Dedicated License Plate



With the purchase of Liberty State Park license plates, you will be supporting the continued improvement of New Jersey's premier urban state park. Your dollars help to maintain and restore historic structures like the CRRNJ Terminal, provide for upgrades to the Nature Interpretive Center, create wildlife habitat, increase recreational opportunities, and so much more.

Please consider becoming part of our community of supporters. For more information or to order your plates today, please visit your nearest NJ Motor Vehicle Agency or visit on line at <http://www.state.nj.us/mvc/Vehicle/Liberty.htm>, or by phone at (888) 486-3339. Thank you for your support.

## Nature Interpretive Programs

While the Nature Interpretive Center remains closed due to storm damage, our Nature Programming continues. A full list of our programs for the spring and summer is below. If you would like to register for any of our programs call (201) 915-3400, ext. 109 or email us at [lsPIC@verizon.net](mailto:lsPIC@verizon.net) and we will be more than happy to help you. All children must be accompanied by an adult. We look forward to seeing you soon.



### **Kids To Parks Day ~ Monarch Discovery Saturday May 16 ~ 10am-11:30am Pre-Registration Required**

Come learn about the amazing life-cycle of the Monarch Butterfly. Program will include hands on activities, nature walk, and information on how you can help the monarch at home! Meet at the Nature Interpretive Center located on Freedom Way.



### **Explore the Estuary ~ Saturday, June 6 ~ Sunday, July 19 ~ Saturday, August 15 10am - Noon \$3/person Pre-Registration Required**

We will don chest waders for a hands-on exploration of our estuary. You never know what you may find in and around the waters of the Hudson. Wear old shoes that can get wet and muddy. ***You will need your own transportation to get from the Park Office to our study site. Families, children age 5 and up.***



### **Summer Shorebird Walk Saturday, July 11 ~ Saturday, August 1 10m - Noon Pre-Registration Required**

Come on out to Liberty State Park and join us for a leisurely stroll as we look for and identify our summer shorebirds. ***Dress to be outside and bring binoculars if you have them, we have a limited number that can be borrowed. Program will begin at the Park Office on Morris Pesin Drive. Families, children age 5 and up.***

## Summer Nature Explorers



**July 2 Birding for Beginners ~ 10am-11:30am ~ 5-10yr olds**

**July 9 Low Tide Beach Walk ~ 10am-11:30am ~ 4-10yr olds**

**July 16 Estuary Explorers ~ 10am-12:00pm ~ 8-12yr olds**

**July 23 Pond Study ~ 10am-11:30am~ 4-10yr olds**

**July 30 Estuary Eco-Cache ~ 10am-11:30am~ 8-12yr olds**



Join us each Thursday in July as we explore the different habitats of Liberty State Park. These programs are for children and caregiver. Cost \$5 per child/caregiver. \$3 for additional child up to a maximum of two.

# Kayak Eco-Tour Liberty State Park

Come explore the natural beauty of the Hudson River Estuary by kayak. Tours will embark from the canoe/kayak launch located at the south side of Liberty State Park near the Park Office and will highlight the local wildlife and habitats of Caven Point.

Trips will run approximately two hours and will include a brief safety and paddle instruction. No prior paddling experience is required however participants need to be comfortable navigating in relatively deep water. Life Jackets (PFDs) will be provided and are required. This program is appropriate for adults and children 16 years and older. Children 16 and older need to be accompanied by a legal adult.

For registration and schedule information, please contact the Liberty State Park Interpretive Center at (201) 915-3402 ext. 109 or [lspic@verizon.net](mailto:lspic@verizon.net). Space is limited and pre-registration is required. All programs run from 10am to noon. Please plan to arrive 30 minutes prior for check-in. Schedule is subject to change. Program fee \$20/person



## 2015 SUMMER SCHEDULE

### June

**Sunday 6/21, Friday 6/26, Saturday 6/27, Sunday 6/28**

### July

**Friday 7/10, Sunday 7/12, Friday 7/17, Saturday 7/18, Sunday 7/19,  
Friday 7/24, Saturday 7/25, Sunday 7/26, Friday 7/31**

### August

**Sunday 8/2, Friday 8/7, Saturday 8/8, Sunday 8/9, Friday 8/14,  
Saturday 8/15, Sunday 8/16, Friday 8/21, Saturday 8/22,  
Sunday 8/23, Friday 8/28, Saturday 8/29, Sunday 8/30**

### September

**Sunday 9/13, Saturday 9/19, Sunday 9/27**





Since 1974 Camp Liberty has brought together young people from the various neighborhoods of Jersey City, Hoboken and Bayonne to participate in recreational sports, fine arts workshops, cooperative group games, arts & crafts, drama, music and dance workshops, swimming and gardening.

At the end of each two week session Camper's join the staff in a theatrical presentation based on world myths, fairy tales or legends.



Camp Liberty consists of two components: one for children ages 6-12; the other for young people ages 13-15.

The first 2 week session of camp begins Monday, June 29 and the last session ends August 21.

The camp is run by the Educational Arts Team and located in **Liberty State Park** at 300 Morris Pesin Dr., Jersey

City, New Jersey.

For more information, please go to our website at [www.educationalartsteam.org](http://www.educationalartsteam.org) or call us at 201-432-1912.



## NYC Skyline Segway Tour

**Departs daily from 1 Audrey Zapp Drive**  
**10:30AM and 1:30PM**

Enjoy a 1.5 hour Segway tour within Liberty State Park rimmed by a thrilling view of Manhattan from one of the best, if not the best, vantage points in the area. To see Manhattan from sea level less than a mile away is an indelible experience. What's more? In Liberty State Park, you can see this unforgettable vista at 270 degrees! You'll make several scenic stops to view and photograph the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Governor's Island, the Verrazano Bridge, the Central Railroad Terminal, US Flag Plaza and New Jersey's moving 9-11 Memorial "Empty Sky".



*Join us on our NYC Skyline Segway Tour for spectacular views of Liberty State Park and the New York City Skyline!*

\*A 20 minute Segway riding lesson included help you feel confident and at ease on this fun new mode of transportation\*

**This tour operates May 15 to September 30th Daily**

**Operating hours: 10AM to 5PM**

**<http://www.bikenewyorkcity.com/>**

**Phone: (212) 260-0400**



## Now Accepting Group Picnic and Pavilion Reservations

Liberty State Park is now accepting reservations for our Picnic Areas for the 2015 season.

### Open Air Picnic Areas

There are seven open-air, group picnic areas available for reservation. Each are equipped with eight picnic tables and one large, charcoal grill. There is no fee for the use of a group picnic area; however, a permit must be obtained prior to use. Reservations are available beginning in January of the same year for dates from April 1st – Oct. 31st (excluding July 4th). To reserve a group picnic site, groups must have a minimum of 20 people and no more than 50 people.

### Freedom Field Pavilions

The Freedom Field Pavilions are available for rent from April 1st to October 31st (excluding July 4th). Each covered pavilion area comes with charcoal grills, 8-ft picnic tables, standard 110v electrical outlets, and access to open lawn space. There are restroom facilities and a parking lot dedicated for pavilion users.



**Pavilion A** accommodates up to 120 people while **Pavilion B** accommodates up to 80 people. The reservation fee includes charcoal grills (plus ADA accessible grill), restroom facility, parking, electric outlets, and lighting. The pavilions are open for use from 9 am to 9 pm and are available seasonally from April 1st to October 31st.

Fees are as follows:

Pavilion A: \$200 NJ Resident; \$250 Non-resident  
Pavilion B: \$150 NJ Resident; \$200 Non-resident

Now at Liberty State Park: REI Outdoor School: [www.rei.com/learn](http://www.rei.com/learn)

*Learn to Stand up Paddle Board*

*Learn to Kayak*

*Introduction to Map and Compass*

### About REI Outdoor School:

REI Outdoor School is the leader in Outdoor Education. Whether you're an outdoor novice or a seasoned adventurer—we've got the outdoor class, outing or event that's right for you. Just bring your thirst for learning and adventure. REI provides the rest—professional instruction, enthusiasm, transportation and gear.

Saturday, June 6th

Saturday, August 1st

Saturday, July 11th

Saturday, September 12th



## What's Happening in Liberty State Park?

Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Walk, Run, and Wag 5K

Joshua Lewis Animal Cancer Foundation

[www.joshualouis.org/](http://www.joshualouis.org/)

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

Run 2 Health 5K

American Cancer Fund

[www.americancancerfund.org/](http://www.americancancerfund.org/)

Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

Liberty Run Armed Forces Day Festival

Liberty Lightning 9K

[www.libertyrun.org/liberty-lightning-9k-race.html](http://www.libertyrun.org/liberty-lightning-9k-race.html)

Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

Veuve Clicquot Polo Classic

[veuveclicquot.tumblr.com/vcpoloclassic](http://veuveclicquot.tumblr.com/vcpoloclassic)

Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>

Diversity Stride Walkathon

American Conference on Diversity

[www.americanconferenceondiversity.org/diversity-stride/](http://www.americanconferenceondiversity.org/diversity-stride/)

Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>

Take Steps 5K

Crohn's and Colitis

[www.ccf.org](http://www.ccf.org)

Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>

Tackle Sickle Cell

Embrace Kids Foundation

[www.embracekids.org/](http://www.embracekids.org/)

Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>

Lady Liberty Sharkfest Swim

[www.sharkfestswim.com](http://www.sharkfestswim.com)

Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

Independence Day Celebration

Details TBA

Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>

Sugartown Bakery Charity 5K

[www.sugartownbakery.com](http://www.sugartownbakery.com)

Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>

Handang Tumulong 5K

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Handang-Tumulong-Foundation-Inc/231124060264183>

Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

Walk for Wishes Make a Wish Foundation

[nj.wish.org/](http://nj.wish.org/)

Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>

New Jersey Recovery Advocates Rally

[www.newjerseyrecoveryadvocates.com/](http://www.newjerseyrecoveryadvocates.com/)

Friday, October 2nd – Sunday, October 4th

Boy Scouts of America Jamboree

[libertyjamboree.ppbsa.org/](http://libertyjamboree.ppbsa.org/)

Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

Grief Relief Walk

Comfort Zone Camp

[www.comfortzonecamp.com](http://www.comfortzonecamp.com)

Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

Carlos Negron Memorial Run 5K

[www.carlosnegronmemorialrun.com](http://www.carlosnegronmemorialrun.com)

Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>

Walk to End Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's Association

[www.alz.org/nj/](http://www.alz.org/nj/)

Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

Run Walk Yoga

Ashram's for Autism

[www.ashrams4autism.org/](http://www.ashrams4autism.org/)

Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

Walk to Cure Diabetes

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

[www.jdrf.org](http://www.jdrf.org)

Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

Glow Walk Run

Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey

[www.efnj.com/](http://www.efnj.com/)

Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

Tough Mudder Tri-State

[www.toughmudder.com](http://www.toughmudder.com)

Jersey City Summer Concert Series

Every Sunday beginning at 5 pm

(August 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm)

July 12<sup>th</sup> through September 6<sup>th</sup>

Details TBA